

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims pending in this application.

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy comprising:

(a) mixing a copper alloy consisting of copper and one or more of S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag and Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm, with lead to yield a microalloy having a final concentration of at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm; and

(b) continuous casting the microalloy.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the microalloy has a lead content of more than 300 weight ppm.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the microalloy has a lead content of more than 350 weight ppm.

23. (Not Entered)

24. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the microalloy from step (b) is heated at 550-650°C for 5-600 seconds to decrease its softening temperature, annealing temperature and recrystallization temperature to below 200°C.

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